Hayakawa Nojiko Suna wo Kizamu Hari

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I APOLOGIZE FOR IMPOSING THIS ONEROUS REQUEST ON YOU,
AND THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ATTENDING TO IT.
TKK
TKK
TKK
TKK
TKK
. MENDING THIS WATCH MIGHT NOT BE WITHIN MY ABILITY ANY LONGER, YOUNG MAN.
TKK
Haha
I'D BE MORE INCLINED TO SHARE YOUR CONCERN
TKK
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BY NOW HOW MODEST YOU ARE.
Opening pages in color · A new serialization for a first-time appearance.
Suna wo Kizamu Hari
The Needles that Engrave the Sand
ch1
Hayakawa Nojiko
TKK
DING
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME
DING

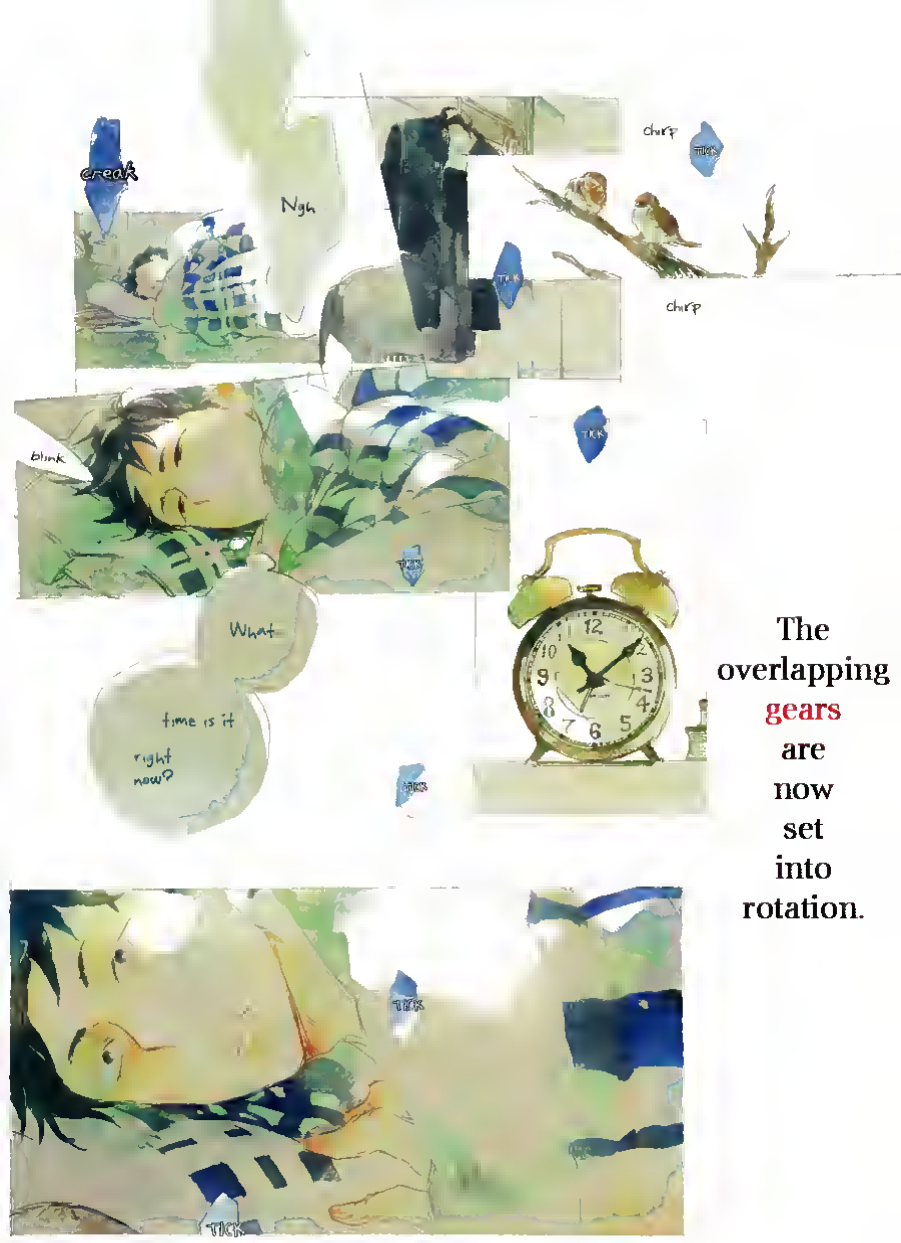
巻頭カラー
初登場新連載

砂を刻む針

すなをきざむはり

1話

Nojico Hayakawa
ハヤカワノジコ



The overlapping gears are now set into rotation.

Huh?!
WHY ARE YOU MAKING A RUCKUS FIRST THING IN THE MORNING?!
SIZZLE
SLIDE
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
Mom, why didn't you wake me up?!
I'm totally late for school!
THUD
THUD
THUD
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S ONLY 7 AM.
...Huh?

Aw maaan,
DEAD
I'm beat...
School~
WELL, COUNT YOURSELF LUCKY IT WASN'T THE OTHER WAY ROUND.
BESIDES, WHO STILL RELIES ON ALARM CLOCKS TO GET OUT OF BED?
Cell-phones come with an alarm for a reason you know.
I KNOW YOUR GRANDFATHER'S A WATCHMAKER AND ALL, BUT...
rise
Unacceptable! The use of electronic devices constitutes an offense to my principles!
The heck are you on about?!
Must sure to be related to a watch-maker
COME ON, GUYS. WE'VE ALL BEEN THERE AT SOME POINT IN OUR LIVES
I MEAN, WHO'S NEVER FREAKED OUT OVER A CLOCK THAT FELL OUT OF SYNC?!
WELL, YOU HAVE A POINT THERE
But then again, you could argue that therein lies the charm that distinguishes an analog clock from its digital counterpart. And what else would I be referring to if not the willpower of the clock, unfazed in the face of gravity or asynchronicity as it strives to induce the movement of the needles until its final moments?
OH, CRAP. HERE HE GOES AGAIN...
Ah,

BUT THEN AGAIN, THAT HAS TO BE ONE OF THEIR MOST MARVELOUS CHARMS.
THAT'S THE THING ABOUT ANALOG CLOCKS, YOU JUST CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE.
I know exactly what you mean!
Oh, yeah!
Makes your heart thump like crazy every time, huh?
THERE WAS ONE TIME WHEN I MISREAD THE TIME AND SLEPT LIKE A LOG FOR TWENTY HOURS STRAIGHT.
...
CLEARLY IT'S YOUR BODY CLOCKS THAT ARE MESSED UP, GUYS.
THE MOMENT YOU WAKE UP?
YOU KNOW HOW WHEN YOU NAP UNTIL SOMETHING LIKE FIVE DURING THE HOLIDAYS AND YOU CAN'T TELL WHETHER IT'S DAWN OR DUSK
NOW THAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THIS...
OKAY, SO,
IF WE TRY TO DIGEST THE FACTS. YOU THOUGHT IT WAS ELEVEN WHEN THE CLOCK WAS ABOUT TO RING SEVEN, RIGHT?
DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ACTUALLY GAINED FOUR HOURS?
No, it doesn't!
Okay, fine, whatever! See if I give a damn anymore!
Go get yourself a goddamn digital clock!!
BRAWL
Let's go back to our seats.
ARGH, BUT YOU KNOW,
WHAT BAFFLES ME IS THAT I JUST RECENTLY BOUGHT THAT CLOCK.
I TRIED TO DISMANTLE IT TO SEE IF I COULD PINPOINT THE ISSUE AND... WELL, THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE IS JUST AS BASIC AS IT GETS. I CHECKED OUT THE CIRCUIT BOARD TOO, BUT...
...I STILL CAN'T THINK OF A SINGLE BROKEN COMPONENT THAT COULD POSSIBLY EXPLAIN WHY THIS HAPPENED. IT JUST SUDDENLY STOPPED WORKING.

Oh, has class already started,
TAP TAP TAP
Yo
without paying an lota of attention to his teacher's words
YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY MOUTH I MEAN, WHAT'S CRAZIER THAN A STUDENT WHO KEEPS MUMBLING TO HIMSELF,
DON'T YOU GUYS THINK THAT'S CRAZY?
ooooooooom
loom
TAP TAP TAP
teacher ...?
HMM, OGI?
After school
ding
dong
dang
dong
See ya!
YOU GUESSED IT.
I MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO PICK UP SOME TAIYAKI* IF I'M LUCKY!
I NEED TO DASH OFF TODAY.
OH.
...TAIYAKI?
?
You sure love doing that.
ALRIGHT. YOU'RE GONNA STOP BY YOUR GRAND-FATHER'S?

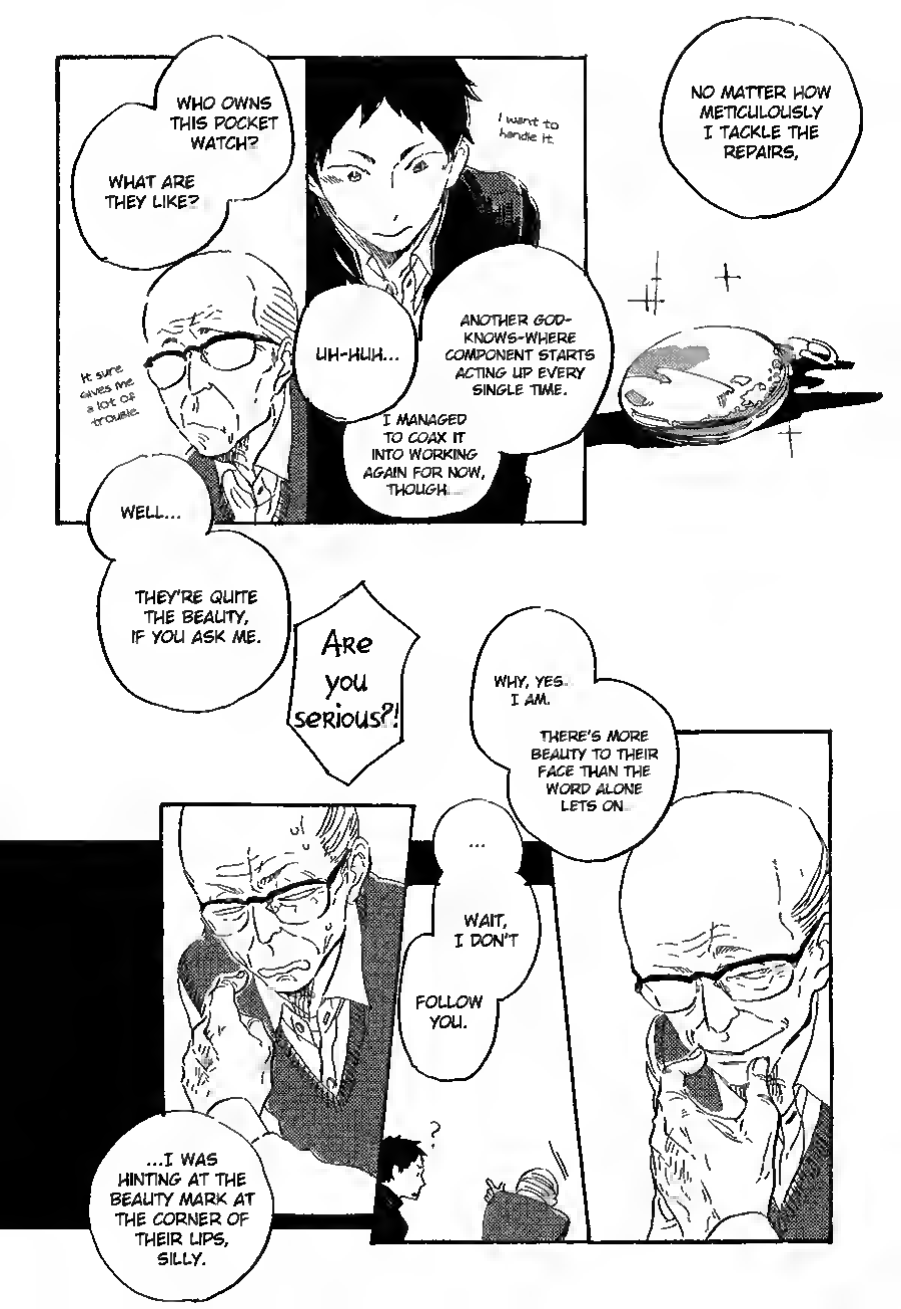
*A FISH-SHAPED PASTRY WITH A SWEET OR SAVORY FILLING

Sweet, they had some taiyaki with red bean paste left.
hot
Have a good evening!
That's pretty rare.
I guess you could say that I've gained something new today.
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
DING
DING
TICK
GRANDPA, YOU AROUND?
TICK
TICK
TICK
DING
TICK

TICK
DING
TOCK
Grandpa!
tap
...In the back room, maybe?
tap
TOCK
TICK
TOCK
TICK
TOCK
TICK
TOCK
TICK
TOCK
You hear me?
What's all that ruckus about?
THUD
CLASSES ARE ALREADY OVER, YOU KNOW.
SHOULDN'T YOU BE AT SCHOOL RIGHT NOW?
...OH, IT'S YOU, TOMOHISA.
Anyways,

Look, I bought some taiyaki on the way!
I knew you'd succeed.
You did well.
I also got my hands on your favorite red bean paste filling.
TICK
TICK
TICK
AND GUESS WHAT?
THE CLOCK WAS ACTUALLY FOUR HOURS LATE.
I ALMOST JUMPED OUT OF MY SKIN BEFORE I REALIZED THAT!
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU WEREN'T LATE FOR SCHOOL THEN.
JUST THINK OF IT AS GAINING A FEW EXTRA HOURS
AND YOU HAVE EVERY REASON TO THINK THE SAME.
MUNCH
YOU THINK SO TOO, HUH...?
IF YOU'RE KEEN ON BELIEVING GOD WAS SO KIND AS TO REWIND TIME FOR YOU, THAT IS.
TICK

REWINDING TIME,
HUH?
THOUGH I'D BE MORE WILLING
TO BET YOU WERE FIDDLING AROUND WITH THAT CLOCK SO MUCH THAT IT WENT NUTS.
No way! You think so?!
IT DOESN'T TAKE A GENIUS TO FIGURE IT OUT.
Well, I'd be lying if I said I didn't dismantle it
SLURP
OH, I RECOGNIZE THAT POCKET WATCH
I TAKE IT OUR CUSTOMER VISITED THE SHOP AGAIN IF IT'S BACK ON YOUR WORKBENCH.
AND YOU'D BE RIGHT.
THIS LITTLE PIECE OF WORK IS AN ENIGMA, ALRIGHT.


NO MATTER HOW METICULOUSLY I TACKLE THE REPAIRS,
ANOTHER GOD-KNOWS-WHERE COMPONENT STARTS ACTING UP EVERY SINGLE TIME.
I MANAGED TO COAX IT INTO WORKING AGAIN FOR NOW, THOUGH...
UH-HUH...
I want to handle it.
WHO OWNS THIS POCKET WATCH?
WHAT ARE THEY LIKE?
It sure gives me a lot of trouble.
WELL...
THEY'RE QUITE THE BEAUTY, IF YOU ASK ME.
Are you serious?!
WHY, YES. I AM.
THERE'S MORE BEAUTY TO THEIR FACE THAN THE WORD ALONE LETS ON.
...
WAIT, I DON'T FOLLOW YOU.
?
...I WAS HINTING AT THE BEAUTY MARK AT THE CORNER OF THEIR LIPS, SILLY.

Well, well,
speaking of beauty marks...
Hey, Ogi.
She's quite popular, I'll grant her that
GIVE ME A MINUTE
SURE.
I'LL BE DONE IN NO TIME, IF THAT'S ALL YOU NEED ME FOR.
Nakamura has one at the corner of her lips
AM! ACCIDENTALLY GOT HER NECKLACE TANGLED.
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD FIX IT?
I can't seem to untangle it
I figured this would be in your area of expertise. Ooo
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE FOUND OUR MAN!
I KNEW WE COULD COUNT ON YOU.
YOU'RE PRETTY HANDY WHEN IT COMES TO THESE THINGS, AREN'T YOU?
Much more than you let on, anyway!
Still, she's not the type of girl I'd go for!

My point being that
Woah, he's already done with it! Amazing!
M-
The owner of that pocket watch is probably just as much of a beauty as Nakamura.
have a keen interest in that pocket watch, and that has nothing to do with its owner.
The fascination of unexplored boundaries
I...
Thanks.
Grandpa made a point of praising his customer's looks back then, but technically beauty and types are two entirely different things. I'm of the opinion that no matter how pretty a face a girl was born with, nice features can't make up for the lack of a modest personality.
Oh, well. He fixed your necklace anyway, so let's go.
Huh? Should we just leave him?
I...
-Ow?
It's okay, don't worry.
Aw, but that watch is a sight you don't behold every day.
Buuut, I was expressly forbidden to lay a single finger on the valuable belongings of our customers
I bet the internal structure is of the finest kind... I honestly don't trust myself to resist the temptation of dismantling it if I take a glimpse of it.
On the other hand..

Huh?
WE'RE NOT CLOSING THE SHUTTERS?
I can't shake off the feeling that
I'm not supposed to see what's inside.
THAT'S RIGHT.
OH, AND DON'T LOCK THE DOOR JUST YET.
Got it.
ANY REASON WHY WE'RE NOT CLOSING YET?
WE'RE EXPECTING
THE OWNER OF THE POCKET WATCH TONIGHT.

...
Wait, after closing time?!
YES.
OH,
REALLY?
YES.
What's with that preferential service?!
THEY ASSURED ME THAT THEY CAN ONLY DROP BY OUTSIDE BUSINESS HOURS, SEE.
THEY DO WARN ME AHEAD OF TIME WHEN THEY PLAN ON COMING, SO I TRY TO MANAGE MY OWN SCHEDULE ACCORDINGLY.
WELL... THEY ARE A REGULAR CUSTOMER OF MINE, AFTER ALL
AND YOU KNOW HOW THE SAYING GOES, "THE CUSTOMER IS KING."
Does she strike Grandpa's fancy...?
WELL, FAIR ENOUGH.
Which also means that
if the repairs turn out to be successful
and our "king" no longer has a use for this place,
that pocket watch will vanish along with her
DO YOU

TENSE
Um.
THANKS, BUT I'LL PASS.
YES, THAT'S A WISE DECISION.
WANT TO TAKE A LOOK INSIDE?
But that watch belongs to one of our customers so I can't
I'll obviously want to check out the internal structure and all its intricacies too, you know?
Pieces if I look inside
There's no way I won't want to dismantle it to
I mean, who am I kidding?
Stop
Resist temptation
IF ITS OWNER GRANTS YOU PERMISSION TO DO SO, THAT IS
...WHILE I DO BELIEVE IT'D BE PREFERABLE THAT YOU DIDN'T LOOK INSIDE,
WHETHER YOU DECIDE TO DO SO OR NOT IS NO ONE'S CALL BUT YOUR OWN.
heave
creak
Huh?

rattle
tap
THEY ALWAYS MAKE SURE TO STOP BY BEFORE THE CLOCK HITS NINE, AT THE LATEST.
SO COME WAKE ME UP WHEN THEY'RE HERE
tap
Grandpa?!
tap
Huh?!
Wait!
WELL THEN,
WORKING OVERTIME PUTS A LIL' BIT OF STRAIN ON THIS OLD MAN.
I'LL BE TAKING A LITTLE NAP UNTIL THEN.
I LEAVE THE SHOP IN YOUR CARE
hud
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
Hold on,
How did I get from trying to put up the shutters to working overtime?
spin
spin
RESTLESS
Okay, fine. I admit it
I really want to see how it looks inside I'm dying to, actually
The only problem being,
ARGH
I have no freaking idea how to interact with a beauty!!

That, and...
No, I can't!
Ugh.
I'm better off fetching Grandpa and leaving the rest to hi-
Dismantle
I wanna look inside.
shine
shine
shine
shine
shine
Mmm
Step
DING
DING
GOOD EVENING.
DI

DING
TICK
HUH?
DING
TICK
TICK
TOCK
WHO ARE YOU?
TICK
TICK
Wait,
we were expecting a man?!
TICK
TICK
To Be Continued

NOJICO★HAYAKAWA

COMMENT

How do you do? I'm shivering at the thought that those are my very first four pages in color. I sincerely hope you'll enjoy the next chapters